Oil Reserves near Kesanapalli, Andhra Pradesh

2419. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge oil reserves have been found near Kesanapalli in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when exploration would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Thirteen wells have been drilled by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. in the Kesanapalli area, East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, out of which nine wells are oil and gas bearing. Presently one well is under testing. The area is under active exploration and three exploratory locations are available which will be taken up for drilling during 2000-2002. Recently, 2D teleseis data have also been acquired and are being processed.

Reduction in Import duties on Crude and Petroleum Products

2420. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is in talks with the Ministry of Finance to consider reducing import duties on crude and petroproducts, this was being done in view of the steep hike in global product price; and

(b) if so, further developments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) There is no decision as yet to cut import duty on petroleum products.

Introduction of CNG outlets in Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh

2421. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a specific request has come from Government of Andhra Pradesh to introduce CNG outlets in some coastal districts by GAIL;

(b) if so, the details of the representations;

(c) whether it is a fact that GAIL has not responded to this representation; and

(d) the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY); (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Reduction of Subsidy on Cooking Gas and Kerosene

†2422. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the subsidy on cooking gas and kerosene;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent to which it is proposed to reduce the subsidy and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (Domestic) and Kerosene (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-01 and 20001-02, respectively. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

Development of LPG kit for Vehicles

2423. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATRAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG as automotive fuel gives more mileage and is less polluting than CNG;

(b) if so, why CNG is being promoted as fuel and not the LPG;

(c) whether there is a proposal for developing LPG kit for smaller vehicles; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.